

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 10-35 are presented for examination. New claims 10-35 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,600,103 to Odaira et al. (herein "Odaira"). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Odaira in view of U.S. patent 6,930,388 to Yamaguchi et al. (herein "Yamaguchi").

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

New independent claim 10 is similar to original independent claim 1. New independent claim 23 is similar to original independent claim 3, but does not recite a "detaching". New independent claims 10 and 23 are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art, as discussed next.

Claims 10 and 23 are directed to a device in which a conductor portion acts as a stopper in a pressing process so as to make a height of an insulating sheet equal to a height of a conductor portion. That is, according to claimed invention the height of the conductor portion is not changed through the manufacturing process.

With reference to Figures 2A-2C in the present specification as a non-limiting example, an insulating sheet 16 is pressed into a conductor portion 14 from above (see Fig. 2A). The insulating sheet 16 is pressed to a height of the conductor portion 16, and the conductor portion 16 can be used as a stopper to make the height of the insulating sheet 16 equal to the height of the conductor portion 14 (see Figs. 2B and 2C).

Such a claimed structure is believed to clearly distinguish over Odaira. In Odaira conductive bumps 2 are elastically deformed by a secondary pressing process, and thereby in Odaira electrical connection is obtained by deforming the top of the conductive bumps. That is, in Odaira an end point of the second processing is input into the pressing apparatus irrespective of the height of the conductive bumps. In Odaira the conductive bumps do not act as a stopper to make the height of the insulating sheet equal to the height of the conductor portion.

In contrast to Odaira, in new independent claim 10, the conductor portions themselves act as a stopper for the pressing operation. Odaira clearly does not disclose or suggest that operation.

Further, with respect to new independent claim 23, the insulating sheet is pressed “to the height of the conductor portion using said conductor portion”. Again in that operation the height of the conductor portions controls the pressing. Odaira clearly discloses a contrary operation in that in Odaira the tops of the conductor bumps are actually deformed, and thereby in Odaira the pressing clearly extends beyond the height of the conductor portions.

In such ways, each of new independent claims 10 and 23 are believed to clearly distinguish over Odaira. The dependent claims are believed to recite additional features distinguishing over Odaira.

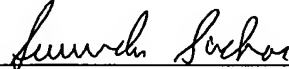
Moreover, no teachings in Yamaguchi are believed to cure the above-discussed deficiencies in Odaira, particularly as Yamaguchi was merely cited to disclose a power supply film and a B-stage sheet.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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